

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 758.1303WO11	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US 03/19112	International filing date (day/month/year) 18.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.06.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B01D35/153			
Applicant DONALDSON COMPANY, INC.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20.01.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.03.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Hilt, D Telephone No. +31 70 340-4259



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/US 03/19112**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished by the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-24 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-23 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/15-15/15 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-23
No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-23
No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-23
No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The present application refers to a filter cartridge with a liner / valve construction positioned to extend along an upstream side of the filter media.

The closest prior art document D1 is:

D1: US-B1-6 322 697 (GUSTAFSON MICHAEL JON ET AL) 27 November 2001 (2001-11-27) cited in the application

2. The subject-matter of claim 1 **differs from closest prior art document D1** in that the filter cartridge includes a liner/valve construction positioned along the upstream surface of the filter media.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to inhibit loss of contaminant from the filter cartridge during servicing operation.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

No hint can be found in the available prior art that would have led the skilled man to modify the layout of a filter cartridge as disclosed in document D1 towards a filter cartridge of the present invention. Moreover the solution of claim 1 can not be seen as being obvious.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel and involves an inventive step (Article 33(1,2,3) PCT).

3. Independent method claims 21 and 23

The method claims 21 and 23 refer to the filter cartridge as defined in claims 1-20. As the filter cartridge of claim 1 is novel and involves an inventive step, method claims 21,23 also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

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4. Dependent apparatus claims 2-20,22

Claims 2-20 and 22 are respectively dependent on claims 1 and 21 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.